THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Certain proposals for taking effective measures against financing of terrorism are under consideration of Government.

Outstanding Income Tax from MNCs

†47. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of total outstanding amount of income tax due from MNCs working in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the companies having outstanding amount of income tax;

(c) whether income tax is also outstanding against M/s. Johnson and Johnson;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures Government are taking to recover the same;

(e) whether Government would forfeit the movable and immovable properties of these companies; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The outstanding demand as on 31.12.2001 in respect of foreign companies having arrear demand exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs amounts to Rs. 760.32 crore.

(c) No demand is outstanding against Johnson and Johnson Company.

(d) As no demand is outstanding in respect of the case at(c) above, no recovery measures are required to be taken.

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†Original notice of the questions was received in Hindi.

(e) and (f) Recovery measures, as appropriate, are being taken in accordance with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Theft in RBI

†48. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rupees 15 lakhs was stolen from the locker in Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether similar cases have also taken place in the past, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether an enquiry has been conducted and the culprits have been found out;

(d) whether the staff of R.B.I, are responsible for this incident;

(e) if so, the action taken against the staff involved in it; and

(f) the steps being taken by Government to protect the banks from such thefts and decoitics, etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (f) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) office in New Delhi had on 20.12.2001 reported an incident of shortage of Rs. 15 lakhs in the currency note balance held on behalf of Oriental Bank of Commerce. RBI has initiated departmental action and issued charge sheets to two officers who were joint custodians holding charge of the notes. They have also been suspended. The RBI has also placed an embargo on the retirement benefits of a third officer who was working in the vault at the relevant time. The matter has also been reported to the police. A similar incident involving pilferage of Rs. 50.5 lakhs of soiled notes held on behalf of State Bank of Mysore was reported at RBI,

†Original notice of the questions was received in Hindi.